

# LUTHER'S CATECHISM

## THE SMALL CATECHISM

*of Dr. Martin Luther*



EVANGELICAL HERITAGE VERSION

### **Anniversary Edition**

*Commemorating the 500th anniversary  
of the posting of the Ninety-five Theses  
and the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation*

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# PREFACE

Luther's Small Catechism is a treasure that has graced the church ever since it was first published in 1529. Throughout the centuries since, the catechism, along with its exposition, has been the textbook used by hundreds of thousands of students to learn the truths of Scripture.

But Luther understood that the value of this treasure was not limited to young people. He used the catechism throughout his life, and he urged others to follow his example.

Those two factors have influenced the design and development of this Reformation Anniversary Edition of the Small Catechism.

Because of the catechism's enduring role as an instructional tool, this book contains a clear and orderly presentation of Bible doctrine. The Bible verses that follow the questions let Scripture speak for itself and encourage students to search the Scriptures to discover God's answers. Often, additional explanations are included to summarize Bible truths.

Because of the catechism's potential to serve as an ongoing source of encouragement and guidance, its contents have been designed to flow for a more natural read. The text and its indices will always permit Christians to search out a particular topic and the Bible verses that apply. However, introductions as well as transitional thoughts also promote the reading of the material as a unit. And transitional units promote the reading of the catechism as a book.

Two other features are noteworthy:

- As saint and sinner, each Christian faces an ongoing struggle with sin. The transitional units highlight the role of law and gospel in this new-self-versus-old-self struggle.
- To highlight even more the catechism's potential as an ongoing spiritual tool, each of the 51 units ends with a Connections section that could be the basis of an individual or joint family devotion. The participants are guided through a Bible history narrative and corresponding thought questions, which apply

the truths learned in that unit. Those are followed by a related quote from Luther or the Lutheran Confessions and a closing hymn. We hope that this section will also help the students grow in appreciation of their Lutheran heritage.

The Lutheran church is a catechetical church. We consider it a remarkable, though undeserved, privilege that we have been able to participate in the development of this book. We pray that you will use your catechism regularly, throughout your entire life, and that God will bless you through it.

Professor Stephen Geiger, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Professor Joel Otto, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Pastor John Braun, Northwestern Publishing House

Pastor Ray Schumacher, Northwestern Publishing House

# LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

*As the head of the family should teach them  
in the simplest way to those in his household.*

### **The First Commandment**

**You shall have no other gods.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.

### **The Second Commandment**

**You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not use his name to curse, swear, lie, or deceive, or use witchcraft, but call upon God's name in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks.

### **The Third Commandment**

**Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not despise preaching and his Word, but regard it as holy and gladly hear and learn it.

### **The Fourth Commandment**

**Honor your father and mother, that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not dishonor or anger our parents and others in authority, but honor, serve, and obey them, and give them love and respect.

### **The Fifth Commandment**

**You shall not murder.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

### **The Sixth Commandment**

**You shall not commit adultery.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we lead a pure and decent life in words and actions, and that husband and wife love and honor each other.

### **The Seventh Commandment**

**You shall not steal.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not take our neighbor's money or property, or get it by dishonest dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and means of income.

### **The Eighth Commandment**

**You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not tell lies about our neighbor, betray him, or give him a bad name, but defend him, speak well of him, and take his words and actions in the kindest possible way.

## **The Ninth Commandment**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's house.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not scheme to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, or obtain it by a show of right, but do all we can to help him keep it.

## **The Tenth Commandment**

**You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, workers, animals, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.**

*What does this mean?*

We should fear and love God that we do not force or entice away our neighbor's spouse, workers, or animals, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

## **The Conclusion**

*What does God say about all these commandments?*

**He says, "I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."**

*What does this mean?*

God threatens to punish all who transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear his anger and not disobey what he commands.

But he promises grace and every blessing to all who keep these commandments. Therefore we should love and trust in him and gladly obey what he commands.



## TEN COMMANDMENTS

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets at Mount Sinai.



# COMMANDMENTS

## The Ten Commandments\*

The Ten Commandments are a summary of God's will for us in our lives. Many people think of the commandments as out-of-date rules that take away our freedom to do the things we want and should have the right to do. But the more we study the commandments, the more clearly we see that they are given to us to bless us. They remain important. We have every reason to want to learn what they mean, and we have every reason to obey them.

\*Note: When God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai, he did not assign numbers to individual commandments. Luther chose to keep the numbering used by the ancient church and the church of his day. Others have numbered the commandments in a different way, keeping the number at ten but changing the way they are numbered.

### God's Will for Our Lives

**20.** To understand why the Ten Commandments are blessings for us, we first have to grasp the condition of our relationship with God.

#### At birth what is wrong in our natural relationship with God?

**Genesis 2:16,17; 3:6** (When Adam and Eve disobeyed God's command and ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, they brought sin and death into the world.)

**John 3:6** Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.

**Romans 5:12** Just as sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned.

**Psalms 51:5** Certainly, I was guilty when I was born. I was sinful when my mother conceived me.

Adam and Eve sinned when they chose to disobey God. Their sin brought them guilt along with many other consequences, including death. Because "whatever is born of flesh is flesh" (John 3:6), their descendants have been born with that sin and, therefore, are guilty and subject to death. Psalm 51 makes it very clear that at the moment of conception in our mother's womb, we each became guilty of sin. The consequences of sin were devastating for Adam and Eve. The consequences we inherit from them by birth are devastating to us also.

## 21. What are the results of our inborn sin?

**Ephesians 2:1,3** *You were dead in your trespasses and sins. . . . Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath.*

**Romans 8:7** *The mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot.*

**Matthew 15:19** *Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, sexual sins, thefts, false testimonies, and blasphemies.*

**Isaiah 59:2** *It is your guilt that has separated you from your God, and your sins have hidden God's face from you, so that he does not hear.*

Because this guilt comes to us from our forefather Adam and so thoroughly corrupts our nature, we often refer to our natural sinful condition as our old Adam, sinful nature, inherited sin, or original sin. This sinful nature puts us under God's judgment, makes us enemies of God, and leads us to sins of thought, word, and deed, which separate us from our holy God.

## 22. How do we know that this description applies to us?

**Romans 3:23** All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

**Romans 5:12** Sin entered the world through one man and death through sin, so also death spread to all people because all sinned.

**1 John 1:8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

## 23. How do we come to the realization of our sin?

**Romans 7:7** I would not have known about coveting if the law had not said, "You shall not covet."

**Romans 3:20** No one will be declared righteous in his sight by works of the law, for *through the law we become aware of sin.*

Some people try to avoid medical tests because they fear the results, but medical tests can uncover diseases that, without treatment, could kill us.

God's commandments uncover the truth about the evil thoughts and deeds that spring from our old Adam and earn death for us.

## 24. Why is the work of the law a blessing as it uncovers our sins?

**1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Luke 13:3** Unless you repent, you will all perish too.

God's law shows us that by ourselves we are lost because of our sins. It shows us that we are unable to save ourselves and that we need a Savior. It prepares our hearts so that we are ready to hear God's wonderful promise.

## 25. Who alone kept God's law?

**Romans 3:12** They all turned away; together they became useless. There is *no one who does what is good*; there is not even one.

**Hebrews 4:14,15** Since we have a great high priest, who has gone through the heavens, namely, Jesus the Son of God, let us continue to hold on to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, *but one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet was without sin.*

**Hebrews 7:26** This is certainly the kind of high priest we needed: one who is holy, innocent, pure, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

## 26. Why is it important to us that Jesus kept the law for us?

**Galatians 4:4,5** When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son to be born of a woman, so that he would be *born under the law, in order to redeem those under the law*, so that we would be adopted as sons.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, *so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.*

---

### A CLOSER LOOK

**Redeem:** to pay a ransom; to buy back; to pay the price required to free someone from slavery or captivity

**Vicarious:** taking the place of another; substitutionary

**Atonement:** establishing peace between God and us by removing the guilt of sin through Christ's perfect life and death

Jesus kept God's law perfectly in our place—as our substitute. He also died as our substitute, paying for the guilt of our sins. We refer to this as *vicarious atonement*.

---

## 27. The result of Adam's sin is devastating for us. How has the result of Jesus' life and death turned our lives around?

**Romans 5:17** If by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through the one man, it is even more certain that those who receive the overflowing grace of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ!

**Ephesians 1:7** *In him we also have redemption through his blood*, the forgiveness of sins, in keeping with the riches of his grace.

**Ephesians 2:1,3-5** You were dead in your trespasses and sins. . . . Like all the others, we were by nature objects of God's wrath. But *God, because he is rich in mercy*, because of the great love with which he loved us,

*made us alive with Christ* even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved!

**1 John 1:7** The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanses us from all sin.

**2 Corinthians 5:17,18** *If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. The new has come! And all these things are from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*

**Ephesians 4:22-24** As far as your former way of life is concerned, you were taught *to take off the old self*, which is corrupted by its deceitful desires, and *to be renewed* continually in the spirit of your mind, and to put on the new self, which has been created to be like God in righteousness and true holiness.

Once we were controlled by the old Adam and were dead in sin and enemies of God. When we came to faith, a new person came to life within each of us, with a new attitude toward sin and righteousness. We often refer to this as the new person, the new self, the spiritual person (being).

**28.** Though the new self has come to life within us, the old Adam is still alive within us too. **What is the result of having both the old Adam and the new self within us?**

**Galatians 5:17** The sinful flesh desires what is contrary to the spirit, and the spirit what is contrary to the sinful flesh. In fact, *they continually oppose one another*, so that you do not continue to do these things you want to do.

**Romans 7:18-23** I know that good does not live in me, that is, in my sinful flesh. *The desire to do good is present with me, but I am not able to carry it out.* So I fail to do the good I want to do. Instead, the evil I do not want to do, that is what I keep doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who am doing it, but it is sin living in me. So I find this law at work: *When I want to do good, evil is present with me.* I certainly delight in God's law according to my inner self, but I see a different law at work in my members, waging war against the law of my mind and taking me captive to the law of sin, which is present in my members.

**29.** We so often give in to the old Adam and fall into sin. But God's promise of forgiveness in Jesus strengthens the new self within us. **How does the new self within us respond to the gift of forgiveness and eternal life that Jesus has earned for us?**

**Romans 12:1** I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to *offer your bodies as a living sacrifice*—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship.

**2 Corinthians 5:14,15** The love of Christ compels us, because we came to this conclusion: One died for all; therefore, all died. And *he died for*

all, so that those who live would no longer live for themselves but for him, who died in their place and was raised again.

**30.** Some people think of the commandments as rules that take all the fun out of life. In Genesis 3:1-6, we see how Satan deceived Eve into thinking that disobeying God would bring happiness. The results of Adam and Eve's disobedience, however, were misery, slavery to sin, and ultimately death. These things are always the results of sin. Obedience to God's commands, on the other hand, does bring blessings.

### What blessings are ours as we obey his laws?

**Psalm 19:7,8,11** The law of the LORD is perfect. *It revives the soul.* The testimony of the LORD is trustworthy. It gives wisdom to the inexperienced. The precepts of the LORD are right. *They give joy to the heart.* The commandment of the LORD is bright. *It gives light to the eyes.* Yes, by them your servant is warned. In keeping them there is great reward.

**Psalm 119:14,35,45** I rejoice in the way that is taught by your testimonies as much as I delight in all riches. Make me walk on the path of your commandments, *for I take pleasure in it.* Then I will walk around freely, because I have sought your precepts.

**Matthew 5:3-10** (In this section of blessings, Jesus teaches that obedience to God's will is the way of true happiness.)

### 31. Why is God's law (the Ten Commandments) a blessing for us as we wish to show our gratitude to God for saving us?

**Psalm 119:105** Your words are a lamp for my feet and a light for my path.

## CONNECTIONS



Sometimes unpleasant experiences are actually blessings. Even pain can be a good thing. Pain can be the signal that tells us something serious is happening inside of us so that we get help from the doctor. Pain can also cause us to pull away from something that is hot and could burn us and do permanent damage. God might also use pain to lead us to his Word for hope and comfort. The result is a stronger faith. The experience of looking into God's law is not always pleasant. Sometimes it is downright painful. God's law shows us that we fall short of what he wants us to be. It reveals the painful truth that we are sinners who deserve God's everlasting punishment. As unpleasant and painful as those truths are, they are blessings because they show us that we need a Savior. God shows us our sins and what we deserve because of them,

but then he graciously points us to the forgiveness we have in our Savior. Read the account of Jonah; see how God's law accomplished its purpose of bringing an entire city of people to realize their sins.

### Jonah 1–3

Notice how God brought the city of Nineveh to repentance. He used the words of his prophet. How has God shown you your sin? How has he assured you of his love and forgiveness? What Bible truths or passages have been most comforting to you when you have felt the guilt of your sin?

### Luther

If the Law accuses me of not having done this or that or being unjust and a sinner in God's record, I must confess that all these charges are true. . . . To be sure, according to the Law, which computes my guilt, I am a poor, damned sinner. However, I appeal from the Law to the Gospel; for, in addition to the Law, God has given us another message called the Gospel. This bestows on us His grace, the forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness and life. (*What Luther Says*, Ewald M. Plass, p. 743, par. 2300)

### Salvation Unto Us Has Come (Stanzas 2-4)

What God does in his law demand  
And none to him can render  
Brings wrath and woe on ev'ry hand  
For man, the vile offender.  
Our flesh has not those pure desires  
The spirit of the law requires,  
And lost is our condition.

It is a false, misleading dream  
That God his law has given  
That sinners can themselves redeem  
And by their works gain heaven.  
The law is but a mirror bright  
To bring the inbred sin to light  
That lurks within our nature.

Yet as the law must be fulfilled  
Or we must die despairing,  
Christ came and has God's anger stilled,  
Our human nature sharing.  
He has for us the law obeyed  
And thus the Father's vengeance stayed  
Which over us impended.

## THE FIRST COMMANDMENT

You shall have no other gods.

*What does this mean?*

We should fear, love, and trust in God above all things.



# NO OTHER GODS

## Honor God Above All Else

With the First Commandment, God plainly teaches us that we should have no gods other than him, the only true God. As Christians, we may think that it will be easy to keep this commandment. After all, we believe in the true God who tells us about himself in the Bible. But as we study this commandment, we will see that we often break this commandment by honoring other gods. We often place more importance on something or someone other than God, making that something or someone our god. We need God's strong reminder to fear, love, and trust the true God above all things.

**32.** The greatest blessing we have, our most prized treasure, is to know the true God. **Why is it so important for us to know the true God?**

**John 17:3** *This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you sent.*

**Acts 4:12** *There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.*

**1 Peter 3:12** *The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their requests. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil.*

**John 16:23** *Amen, Amen, I tell you: Whatever you ask the Father in my name, he will give you.*

**Psalms 46:1** *God is our refuge and strength, a helper who can always be found in times of trouble.*

**Psalms 67:1** *May God be gracious to us and bless us. May his face shine on us.*

**Psalm 145:15,16** The eyes of all look eagerly to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. He opens his hand, and he *satisfies the desire of every living thing*.

### 33. Who is the true God?

**1 Corinthians 8:4** There is no God but *one*.

**Isaiah 45:21** *There is no god except me*, a righteous God and Savior. There is no one except me.

**Matthew 28:19** Go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*.

**2 Corinthians 13:14** The grace of the *Lord Jesus Christ*, and the love of *God*, and the fellowship of the *Holy Spirit* be with you all.

### 34. People break this commandment in many ways. **What are some ways people dishonor the true God?**

**Psalm 14:1** The fool says in his heart, “There is no God.”

**Psalm 115:4** Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands.

**Isaiah 44:12-19** (The prophet speaks of the foolishness of people who bow down to idols. He talks about the blacksmith who creates an image of metal that can’t satisfy his hunger. He describes a craftsman who takes a block of wood, using half of it for fuel to cook his food and the other half to create an image that can do nothing.)

## A CLOSER LOOK

Some people believe that there is no God. They are called atheists. They want to believe that they are masters of their own destinies and that they aren’t responsible to anyone else. Other people acknowledge that there may be a god, but they say we can’t know for sure. They are called agnostics. Neither atheists nor agnostics believe what the Bible tells us. They don’t believe in the true God. It is worth noting the demons described in James 2:19. Though these demons believed there is one God, they had reason to shudder in fear.

**35.** We understand what the words *love* and *trust* mean. However, when we speak of loving and trusting God, those words take on special significance. To love God means to treasure him and his Word above everything else. To trust him is to be confident that his Word is true and that he always provides everything we need, keeps us safe, and gives us everything he has promised. Unfortunately, our actions often reveal that the sinful nature lives within us and leads us to love

and trust in other gods instead of in the true God. **What are some of the ways that we may be guilty of sinning against God by breaking this commandment?**

**Matthew 6:24** No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot *serve both God and mammon*.

**Psalm 62:10** If your wealth grows, *do not set your heart on it*.

**Proverbs 11:28** *Whoever trusts his wealth will fall*, but righteous people will flourish like green plants.

**1 John 2:15** *Do not love the world or the things in the world*. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

**Matthew 10:37** *Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me*, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Our material possessions, our families, and our friends are all blessings from God. We thank him for them. But when they become too important to us, they begin to take God's place in our hearts; they become our idols. We love them more than we love God.

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and *do not rely on your own understanding*.

**Jeremiah 17:5** This is what the LORD says. *Cursed is anyone who trusts in mankind*, who seeks his strength from human flesh, and who turns his heart away from the LORD.

God has blessed us so we can learn many things. We know more about this complex world than previous generations did. We develop medicines and invent technology that can do amazing things. But if we trust our human knowledge so much that we believe we do not need God's care, love, and forgiveness, we make gods of our understanding, knowledge, and technology.

**John 5:23** Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

**1 John 2:22,23** Who is a liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is an antichrist: the one who denies the Father and the Son. *Everyone who denies the Son does not have the Father*. But the one who confesses the Son has the Father as well.

Many people claim to believe in the God of the Bible but don't believe that Jesus is true God. They really believe in a god created by human imagination. In reality, they are following an idol.

**36.** In his explanation of the First Commandment, Luther says that we are to love and trust God above all things. If we love and trust other things more than God, we are making them into false gods. **In the**

## explanation, he also tells us to fear God above all things. What does that mean?

**Matthew 10:28** Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, *fear the one who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*

**Ephesians 3:20,21** Now to him, who is able, according to the power that is at work within us, to do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen.

**1 Samuel 12:24** Above all, *fear the LORD, and serve him in truth*, with all your heart, considering the great things he has done for you.

**Daniel 6:1-23** (Daniel feared God more than the king's decree. He was willing to die rather than bow down to the king.)

To fear God doesn't mean simply to be afraid of him. To fear God means to recognize his power and authority and be filled with great awe and respect. When our sinful flesh leads us to sin, God wants us to fear the punishment that we deserve because of our sin. But we do not receive punishment; we receive forgiveness. As we rejoice in the forgiveness of our sins, our fear of God includes appreciation that his power and authority gave us a Savior.

**37.** All of us struggle with this commandment. We don't always fear, love, and trust in God more than anything or anyone else. **How can we then hope that God will love us as his children, that he will listen to our prayers, and that he will someday take us to heaven?**

**Matthew 4:1-10** (Jesus was tempted to put himself first, but he didn't. He put God first.)

**Romans 5:19** Just as through the disobedience of one man the many became sinners, so also *through the obedience of one man the many will become righteous.*

We are sinners who have heard the wonderful message that Jesus kept God's commandments in our place. Out of thanks to Jesus for saving us, we turn away from our sins and want to obey God.

**38. How does God's Word serve as a guide for those of us who want to keep the First Commandment?**

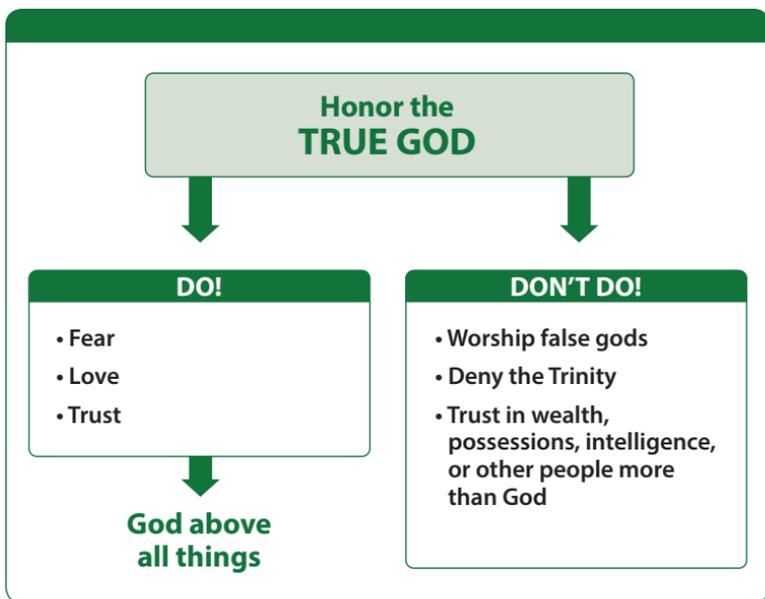
**Matthew 22:37** Jesus said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind."

**Psalms 73:25,26** Who else is there for me in heaven? And besides you, I desire no one else on earth. My flesh and my heart fail, but God is the rock of my heart and my portion forever.

**Genesis 22:1-19** (Abraham so feared, loved, and trusted God that he was willing to offer his son.)

**1 Samuel 17** (David trusted that God would give him victory against Goliath.)

**1 Peter 5:6,7** Humble yourselves under God's powerful hand so that he may lift you up at the appointed time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.



## CONNECTIONS



**Fear. Love. Trust.** Those three words summarize Luther's explanation of the First Commandment. We fear God above all things when we are afraid of his punishment because of our sins and when we are filled with such awe and respect that we don't want to sin. We love him above all things when his promise of salvation through Jesus is our most valuable treasure and the focus of our hearts. We trust him above all things when we bring all of our challenges and needs to him in prayer, believing he can help us. We demonstrate that trust especially when we look to him to help us with our greatest problem—our sin—and believe his promise that he has forgiven us through Jesus. In the Bible we can find many examples of people for whom the promises of God were more valuable than even life itself. In the book of Daniel, read about

how three men feared, loved, and trusted God to the point that they were ready to die rather than worship a false god.

### Daniel 3:1-18

God miraculously rescued these three men from the fire. But before the men were thrown into the flames, they did not know what God would do. They were willing to risk their lives because they believed God was more important than life. Describe a time when putting God first means you might lose something. What Bible truths can help you when you are in such a situation?

### Luther

You shall have me alone as your God. What is the meaning of this? . . . Answer: A god means that from which we are to expect all good and in which we are to take refuge in all distress. So, to have a god is nothing other than trusting and believing him with the heart. I have often said that the confidence and faith of the heart alone make both God and an idol. If your faith and trust is right, then your God is also true. On the other hand, if your trust is false and wrong, then you do not have the true God. For these two belong together, faith and God [Hebrews 11:6]. Now, I say that whatever you set your heart on and put your trust in is truly your god. (Large Catechism, I, par. 1,2)

### The Ten Commandments Are the Law (Stanzas 2,11,12)

"I am your Lord and God alone!  
No other god but me enthroned!  
Put your whole confidence in me;  
Give me your heart totally."  
Have mercy, Lord!

God gave these laws to show therein,  
O child of man, your life of sin,  
And help you rightly to perceive  
How unto God you should live.  
Have mercy, Lord!

Our works cannot salvation gain;  
They merit only endless pain.  
Forgive us, Lord! To Christ we fly,  
Our mediator on high.  
Have mercy, Lord!

### I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus (Stanzas 1,4,6)

I am trusting you, Lord Jesus,  
Trusting only you,  
Trusting you for full salvation,  
Free and true.

I am trusting you to guide me;  
You alone shall lead,  
Ev'ry day and hour supplying  
All my need.

I am trusting you, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.

I am trusting you forever  
And for all.